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Our English Letter.

BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

LONDON, 24, May, 1901.

Little by little the information is leaking out as to what is being done in the matter of providing for a new issue with the King's portrait. The latest item has resulted from a question in Parliament. The Secretary to the Treasury in reply admitted that the portrait of His Majesty which is being used in the preparation of the designs to appear on the new stamps is by a foreign artist, there being in existence an excellent profile portrait executed only last year by the Austrian sculptor Mr. Fuchs, who is now resident in London. But there is no information, as yet, as to the time when the new issue will be made. I should not be surprised if it were postponed till the coronation.

This new issue, when it is made, cannot fail to give a fresh and most far reaching impetus to stamp collecting in all sorts of directions. And probably it will result in a very large increase of collectors.

Throughout the whole of the colonies of the Empire the change will be gradually, if not immediately, made from the Queen's head to the King's head. What that means may, to some extent, be gathered, when it is remembered that there are over forty colonies issuing and using Queen's head stamps. Forty new sets marking an exceptionally interesting historical change is a philatelic event of enormous import.

A report is being circulated that the Transvaal has already ordered a King's head issue, but I should say it is doubtful if it will be allowed to precede the home issue. Meanwhile, the Transvaal has led the way with the first King's issue in the 1d overprinted "E. R. I.". I am bound to add that

the report that the Transvaal King's head stamps are being prepared for immediate issue comes from a source that has always had first class early information of forthcoming new issues.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform me that the New Zealand government has called in all the old Queen's head stamps and destroyed the lot. Why, it is not said. Nor have we had any explanation yet why they have been frequently of late reprinting from those old plates for current use alongside of the picture series.

Talking of the New Zealand picture series, it may not be uninteresting to point out just now that, as anticipated by me months ago, the local printings that are now being made from the Waterlow plates of the picture series, are giving a fine range of shades, and readers of the *A. J. P.* will do well to secure all that are to be had while they are on the market at new issue rates. Some have already gone beyond into prices for scarcer stamps. Briefly, the shades are ;—In the $\frac{1}{2}d$, several shades from pale yellow green to dark myrtle green, 1d, many curious shades from rose to carmine lake. 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}d$, and 3d, few shades. 4d, yellow brown and brown. 5d, pale washy-brown to red-brown. 6d, two distinct and interesting shades, one yellow green the other dark myrtle green. The yellow green is a scarce stamp to get. Very few dealers here have any, and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. are charging 3s each for them, and say that even at that price they are selling to New Zealanders. It will be remembered that the local green 6d had only a short life before it was superseded by the current 6d rose, therefore I should not be surprised to see the 6d green, especially the *yellow green* shade, catalogued higher than any of the rest of the set. In the 6d rose, the shades vary only from pale to dark. In the 8d and 9d there are few shades, but the 1s yields some very distinct varieties from bright vermillion to a brown red, and some of these shades will certainly be valuable. I have not yet succeeded in getting a copy of the vermillion. The 2s and 5s so far as I have seen, offer no shades, I need hardly say that shades of current stamps should be picked up as early as possible, for it is surprising how a rare shade runs up in the catalogue once its rarity is established, and some of these New Zealand shades will certainly be rarities.

By the way, be it noted that Victoria has adopted an Inland penny postal rate. This probably may be taken as a forerunner to the adoption of the Imperial Penny Postage, if not of the Universal Penny Postage, introduced by New Zealand.

The new stamps lately issued by Victoria seem to be very difficult to get, from the dealer's point of view. I know of no dealer who has been able to get a sufficient lot to keep them in stock. In a few days all that come over, and they are few, are sold out. I have had an order for a set of pairs with a well known dealer for weeks and have not yet got a set. Already they are running into shades, the $\frac{1}{2}d$ emerald green especially has been toned down to a less staring color.

Despite the report from your side that our postal authorities have been smitten with the United States booklets of stamps it is stated on authority on this side that there is no intention of following suit.

Stamp shops are now recognised as a necessity by leading London dealers. The latest to drop down on the street from an upper floor is Mr. William Hadlow, the well known auctioneer, one of the most straightforward men in the stamp trade of this country. He is going to pitch his new tent alongside of the De Keyser Hotel on the Thames Embankment, close to Blackfriars Bridge. Its a new country for a stamp dealer, quite out of the Strand run, and it strikes me as being a risky experiment.

Other dealers are coming to the conclusion that a shop is a necessity. Those who are upstairs note the stream of casual callers that are constantly to be met in the stamp shop. The man who wants to buy only a few shillings, worth of stamps does not care to go formally into an upstairs office for such a small transaction, and the man who wants to sell prefers the shop, and for a new issue sale there is nothing to touch the shop where the boys can run in and out.

War Provisonals from South Africa are coming in shoals and are, in my opinion, not worth serious attention. We have had the noted Mafekings, and other small fry too numerous to mention. My advice to collectors is to collect only those issued by the regular postal authorities at Pretoria and Bloemfontein. They wont miss much worth having by drawing such a hard and fast line. The so-called "Besieged", and other stuff, are pure speculations by some canny philatelists on the spot. It may safely be set down that however sublimely innocent the issuing officer may profess himself to be, a speculating philatelist was not a thousand miles away. Besides, the protestations of philatelic ignorance in more than one case are a bit too patent.

Since writing the above I have been shown the following announcement in *The Civilian*, a weekly service journal, concerning the forthcoming King's head issue :

"We understand that the authorities at Somerset House, who have control of the manufacture and issue of stamps, have now completed arrangements with Messrs. De la Rue for the supply of the new stamps bearing the likeness of His Majesty the King, and that these will soon be available for public use. The King has given his sanction to certain designs which were submitted to him by the artist who was commissioned to do the work, and we believe the result will be satisfactory to all concerned, a very good likeness having been selected. The change in the direction in which the Royal head will be made to look on the new coins,—that is, towards the right,—will not be effected in the King's head on the stamps. It is assumed that the reason for this is in order to avoid making the head appear to be looking away from the letter to which the stamp is affixed."

When Mr. C. J. Phillips returned from America he published in the

Monthly Journal a suggestion that a Philatelic Club should be gotten up in London as a rendezvous for all classes of stamp men. The idea was at once backed up in the *Philatelic Record* and there were meetings of eminents, but the result I fear, will be—nil. London philately is dominated by the wet blanket variety of philatelist who can always trump up a thousand and one reasons why any suggestion should not be carried out, but who never by act or deed has been known to have looked at the other, or favorable, side of any question.

The auction season is nearly over and I find an almost unanimous opinion that there has been a marked recovery in prices, though they have by no means reached the inflated prices of 1897. Still, stamps have undoubtedly shown up much better in the salerooms, of late.

I have reason to believe that there will be some record sales next season, for I know of more than one grand lot held over for the new season. The complaint at the beginning of this season was that the good stamps were not forthcoming, and that the average grade of stamps obtainable was getting ominously lower and lower. Naturally, those who desired to sell did not care to risk their treasures on a bad market, but the encouraging signs of improvement is now enticing a better class of stamps into the market, and as a result we shall have next season, in all probability, an unusually fine lot of the better class of stamps, with grand opportunities for advanced specialists to fill up blanks in rarities that rarely ever turn up anywhere.

The conundrum, "Who bought the Castle collection?" is still to the fore. The latest guess in that direction is in the just issued *Fortnightly*. To the question, "Why is the Castle collection of Europeans like an ancient mariner?" it appends the suggestive answer, "Because both have traveled from C—to C—(sea to sea), and it adds that now the secret is half out. Already there are a few who are in the "know." This hint of the *Fortnightly* would seem to point to the Earl of Crawford, and there are few who know his lordship's enthusiasm and thoroughness as a collector who will not wish the guess may be true. In the opinion of not a few he is the coming English collector. Whenever he has given a display at the meetings of the Philatelic Society of London he has taken us by surprise at the unsuspected wealth of his philatelic treasures. On one evening he passed round complete sheets of all the values of Sicily and regular table-cloth sheets of Modena, one after another. For scientific method in arrangement I have never come across anyone who takes so much pains. He has a system of tabulating which enables him to tell at a glance what varieties are lacking in his collection.

The Annual Dinner of the Philatelic Society of London will probably not be held till October.

The South African Exhibition of War Provisionals also stands over till the autumn. Whether it will then be held remains to be seen. It would

certainly be of an interesting character to collectors here, for many fine and strongly specialised collections have been made, notably in London, of the War Provisions of Orange River Colony and the Transvaal.

The collecting of stamps is every year claiming more and more attention in the public press. The latest instance is the starting of a high class and expensive monthly for Art and Curio Collectors. It is intended to cater for the wealthy collectors of old engravings, china, old furniture, book plates, musical instruments, coins, medals, &c. Stamps have been given a special position in the make up of the contents, and not only that, they account for a decent portion of the advertising support which has been secured. As this new journal will go into the homes of the upper ten it will probably make many desirable converts to our hobby. Your humble servant has charge of the stamp pages. From what I have seen of the proof of the first number it will be a superb publication. The prices demanded, and being got, for the advertisements ought to enable the proprietors to turn out a tip-top journal. The price for the back page has been put at £50, and I am told £40 has been offered and refused for it.

The journal has its own splendid suite of rooms in King's Street, not far from the Strand, and the staff have their own private brougham.

The Philatelic Society of London winds up its present season on Friday. In a few respects it has been a fairly successful season. We have had some grand displays, one or two lantern evenings and some good papers, but no Exhibition as promised. There are rumors of developments for the new season, but, as you know, I would be hung, drawn and quartered if I were to tell tales out of school about this august society.

There is no sign as yet of a new Gibbons catalogue for this year. We may have the Colonial portion before the year is out, but I imagine it is somewhat doubtful. *No one grumbles at the delay.* The general feeling engendered by the last two editions is that it is better to let sleeping dogs lie. No one knows what tricks the animal may be up to if you wake him up. Meanwhile, Gibbons issues special catalogues in the shape of addenda for the Transvaal, Orange River Colony, and Mafekings.



New Postage Stamps.

FIRST COMMONWEALTH ISSUE.

Daily Telegram, Sydney.

A unique interest (says the *Argus*) attaches to two new stamps, designs for which have been adopted by Senator Drake, Postmaster General. They are the first to bear the King's head issued in Victoria.

The general color scheme of the £2 stamp will be carmine, with the lettering and figures in black, and the prevailing background of the £1 stamp will be brown. The figures "2" and the letters "E. R." will be brown on pink, while the line "two pounds" will be printed white on a pink background. The designs cannot be very highly commended as works of art. A comparison with the existing issues will show that for the first time a practically full head, instead of a profile of the sovereign, is given, while simplicity has been sacrificed for ornamentation, which is, for the most part, not symbolical of anything whatever. The gap which separates the new designs from previous issues is no doubt due to the author having failed to grasp the importance of somewhat idealising his subject.

The permanent head of the Postal Department, Mr. F. L. Outtrim, thus explains why the new issues are to be made: "We take in at certain offices bulk correspondence, on which the postage amounts to £1 or more, and instead of stamping the letters separately a docket for the total postage is presented, and a duty stamp affixed. At the present time we have only duty stamps of these denominations, and revenue derived from them goes to the State, the postage revenue coming to the Commonwealth. We have arranged with the Treasury that the amount of duty stamps used for postage purposes shall be refunded to us, but after the 1st June a distinction must be made, hence the new stamps, which the Government Printer will be asked to prepare for us as quickly as possible."

Inverted Pan-American Stamps.

The entire country has been in a state of excitement on account of the discovery of 1 and 2c Pan-American stamps with inverted centers. The first lot was discovered at the Brooklyn post office and, as far as we can learn, only one sheet of fifty stamps was distributed from that center. We have heard reports of the 2c having been discovered in three or four other cities, and the 1c we know to have been found in Philadelphia and also in one of the Connecticut towns. Reports are current of the 4 and 10c being in the possession of collectors, but these reports have not, as yet, been confirmed. If the quantity of inverted center stamps be confined to the small lots that have been discovered up till now, they will be of considerable value, but it is our opinion that large quantities will be found in various parts of the United States, and we would strongly advise collectors not to pay high prices for these varieties, at least, for the present.

Another Issue of South African Republic "Besieged" Stamps.

We copy the following from the *London Philatelist*, and, while we do not attach much importance to these issues, we think that we owe our readers information in regard to anything new in that line that may appear:

"Messrs. Bright & Son sends us a specimen of the Provisional War stamps used from August 21st to the end of September, last year, also a letter (which we print) from Colonel Chamier, giving full particulars of the surcharge adopted and the description and numbers of stamps overprinted.

"We can hardly look upon this as a necessary issue, though we must leave our readers to form their own opinions as to whether these stamps should be admitted to their albums or not. Letter follows:

"KIMBERLEY, 20th February, 1901.

"Sir:—I am in receipt of your letter of 12—2—'01, making certain inquiries as to the official issue of Schweizer Reneke Siege Stamp.

"On the 19th August, 1900, the garrison at Schweizer Reneke was invested by a large Boer force. All communications with the outer world were cut off on the 21st August. Letters and despatches had to be carried by native runners. I found it necessary to limit the number of these letters sent by runners, and I issued orders that no letters would be forwarded unless officially stamped. Stamps could only be procured from the two local stores (Mr. Stern's and Mr. Tilbrooke's). I called these in, and issued them as required, at face value.

"The following is an exact account of the number thus issued :

Cape,	1d.	368
"	½d.	529
Transvaal,	6d.	178
"	2d.	568
"	1d.	1,572
"	¾d.	781
<hr/>		
Total,		3,996

Also four Cape 1d. stamps (issue with Table Mountain), and four Cape ½d. stamps, old pattern, which I cannot describe, as I am not a stamp collector myself.

"The stamps employed were (1) the Z. A. R. Post Office official steel stamp, which gave "Schweizer Reneke Z. A. R." and date in centre; (2) an India-rubber stamp, "BESIEGED," which we made up out of a collection of old letters found in the post office. (These two stamps used in conjunction).

"I think forgery will be difficult, as I have kept the steel stamp whilst my staff officers kept the India-rubber one.

"The whole supply of stamps was exhausted before the end of September, and no further issues could be made, although the garrison was not finally relieved until 9th January, 1901.

"The only genuine date, therefore, will be August and September, 1900.

"Probably complete sets would be very hard to obtain, as quite 3,300

were bought by the non-coms. and men of the garrison, and these were forwarded on letters to their friends in all parts of the world. Possibly many found their way to Mr. Stern.

"I have no doubt that the stamps you purchased from Mr. Stern were genuine.

"Yours faithfully,

"H. G. CHAMIER."

Uruguay, 1856-1889, Discoveries.

From "The London Philatelist."

Mr. H. Griebert, of New Bond Street, whose grand collection of the stamps of this country recently excited so much admiration at the Paris Exhibition, writes as follows :

"We have pleasure in forwarding for your notice some interesting stamps of Uruguay from Mr. Griebert's collection. Since he wrote his article as to his discovery of the various types of the 80 cents and 1 real Diligencia, first issue, 1856, in the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* in January, 1900, showing three different types of the 1 real, he has come across a fourth type, and we inclose herewith the four different types; of course there may be still more, but in his opinion there is hardly any more space left to find a fifth one."

The specimen forwarded has the following spacing on the left-hand side of the bottom label between the outer edge and the beginning of the inscription of value :—

Type I.	16 mm.
" II.	18 "
" III.	20 "
" IV.	22 "

We have carefully examined Mr. Griebert's specimens, and can bear out his measurements. Type III is the new discovery.

Our correspondent further writes :—

"We also inclose two other interesting stamps which, according to Dr. Wonner's work, pages 22 and 23, have been known to exist and have been used from the 9th August, 1857, to the 1st November, 1857. These were therefore issued before the so called second issue of three stamps of 1st November, 1857. He had only shown in Paris the 180 centesimos, but has now come into possession of the other stamp mentioned in Dr. Wonner's work, viz. the 240 centesimos."

These are of the well-known, long-debated type of olden days—the large Diligencia stamps, 180 c., green, and 240 c., red, with "DILIGENCIA" above, value below, and sides occupied by seven pearl-shaped ornaments.

The other "discoveries" of Mr. Griebert are in his own words : "The only known copy of the 120 cents Montevideo issue of 1859, type cut in half, used as 60 cents on original envelope; also the same stamp, of which the

bottom outer line is entirely missing." This is a very clear instance of a defective impression, similar instances of which may be found in some of the Victorian issues. Among the more recent issues a block of four of the Paz issue, 1897, surcharge reversed, and the same stamp *without surcharge, imperf. vertically*, in a block of four, were also forwarded by Mr. Griebert as being unchronicled varieties.

Additional Varieties of Samoan Stamps.

EDITOR AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY,

DEAR SIR,—Since my article on Samoan stamps appeared in the May number of the JOURNAL, I have obtained several items of information which may be of interest to your readers. I have learned that the first printing of the Express stamps consisted of the 1, 3 and 6 pence values, each in sheets of twenty. In subsequent printings all values were in sheets of ten, except the 1 penny, which was always in sheets of twenty.

To my list of Express stamps of type III, should be added the 2 shillings bistre-brown.

The $2\frac{1}{2}$ pence rose, King's Head, also exists perforated $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.

In addition to these varieties I have seen the 2 pence yellow surcharged "1 $\frac{1}{2}d$ " in black, instead of blue. This variety is further distinguished by the flag of the figure 2 ending in a short upright stroke. The stamp appears to belong to a very late printing.

Very truly yours,

JOSEPH B. LEAVY.

Great Britain.

From the "*Monthly Journal*."

The London Gazette of the 19th instant contains a notice to the effect that, on and after the first day of June next, certain of the earlier stamps (for that is evidently the meaning included in the word "dies") of this country will cease to be available for postage and other purposes. As this is the first time that any of our Postage Stamps have been thus declared out of use, we think it well to reproduce the notice in full :

STAMP DUTIES.

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue in pursuance of section twenty-two of the Stamp Duties Management Act, 1891, as amended by section ten of the Revenue Act, 1898, hereby give notice that the use of the dies from which the covers and envelopes used for denoting duties of postage at the rates of one penny and two pence and commonly called or known as the Mulready Covers and Envelopes have heretofore been printed, and also of

the dies referred to in the schedule hereunder written from which adhesive stamps have heretofore been printed for denoting certain duties of postage and of Inland Revenue, has been discontinued, and that on and after the first day of June, one thousand nine hundred and one, those dies will not be lawful dies for denoting the payment of any duty, and that the duties of postage and of Inland Revenue for which those dies have hitherto been available may and shall, on and after that day, be expressed and denoted only by the dies provided in lieu thereof, which are now in general use for denoting the said duties by adhesive stamps, as is in the first part of the said schedule mentioned.

—Dated this 19th day of April, 1901.

By order of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue,
H. F. BARTLETT, Assistant-Secretary.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO.

FIRST PART.

Dies for denoting Duties of Postage as follows, of which some have, since the passing of the Acts 44 and 45 Vict., c. 12, and 45 and 46 Vict., c. 72, been available, for denoting also Duties of Inland Revenue.

Duty.	Dies Discontinued.
1. The duty of one penny	All dies in use previously to those used for the stamps now in general use for denoting this duty, which stamps are printed with the words "Postage and Inland Revenue" thereon and were first issued on the 13th day of December, 1881.
2. The duties of one half penny, of one penny halfpenny, of two pence, of two pence halfpenny, of three pence, of four pence, of five pence, of six pence, of nine pence, and of one shilling	All dies in use previously to those used for the stamps now in general use for denoting these duties, which stamps are printed with the words "Postage and Revenue" thereon and were first issued on the 1st day of January, 1887.
3. The duty of ten pence	All dies in use previously to those used for the stamps now in general use for denoting this duty which stamps are printed with the words "Postage and Revenue" thereon and were first issued on the 22nd day of February, 1890.
4. The duties of five shillings, of ten shillings, and of one pound	All dies in use previously to those used for the stamps now in general use for denoting these duties, which stamps were first issued on the 1st day of April, 1884.
5. The duties payable in respect of the transmission of telegrams	All dies appropriated by words on the face of them to duties payable in respect of the transmission of telegrams

SECOND PART.

Dies for denoting Duties of Inland Revenue as follows, of which some have, since the passing of the Acts 44 and 45 Vict., c. 12, and 45 and 46 Vict., c. 72, been available for denoting also Duties of Postage.

Duty.	Dies Discontinued.
1. The duty of one penny	All dies appropriated by words on the face of them to the duties payable on (1) Receipts, (2) Drafts or Orders for the payment of money to bearer or to order on demand, and also all dies in use previously to the 13th December, 1881, having the words "Inland Revenue" thereon
2. The duties of two pence, of three pence, of six pence, of nine pence, of one shilling, of one shilling and six pence, of two shillings, and of two shillings and six pence	All dies in use previously to the 1st day of January, 1887, having the words "Inland Revenue" thereon

The Truth about the Boer "Commando Brief Stamp."

BY A JOHANNESBURG PHILATELIST.

From "*The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*."

The "Commando Brief" Stamp of the Boers, which the *Fortnightly* was the first British Philatelic journal to describe and illustrate, was not issued by the Post Office of the Orange Free State. I have proof of this.

In reality the stamp was issued, on his own initiative, by an official of the O. F. S. on duty at the Field Post office. There was no real necessity or occasion for the stamp, for both in the Transvaal and in the Free State letters to and from the "fighting line" were allowed to pass post free. It was merely necessary for the sender to use on his missive the word "Velddienst." The report put about that the Boer Commandant himself stamped the letters, and by the creation of this "Commando Brief" stamp was saved the trouble of doing so, is contrary to fact. All the letters would be postmarked whether stamps were attached to them or not.

Entire envelopes bearing postmarked and dated specimens of these stamps are shown as proof of the official character of these stamps. I say the postmark proves nothing. As no stamp was required the postmark would be applied to the envelope in the usual place whether there was a stamp there or not. Had a fighting burgher prepaid his letter home with a Chinese local it would have been fully as efficacious as the "Commando

Brief" label; and, for the reason stated above, the Chinese local would have been duly postmarked at the Field P. O.

The "Commando Brief" stamp I hold to be no proper postage stamp at all. I was in Johnnnesburg at the time of its issue and philatelists there never for a moment accepted the thing as an official issue, but merely as a private speculation. I was never more surprised in my philatelic life than when I came to London and saw this yellow label in a dealers window marked "Very Scarce, £1 10s."!

Exit Faridkot.

BY C. STEWART-WILSON.

From "*The Philatelic Journal of India.*"

Last month I promised to give details of the Faridkot remainders of surcharged stamps. I regret that the information so far is not sufficiently full to justify its publication. It is hoped that it may be ready for the May number. It would appear, however, that there are no copies of the $\frac{1}{4}$ anna and 12 annas *ordinary* or of the 6 annas *service* left; and that the others are all present in considerable quantities. We may, however, now safely summarise the issues of this State from beginning to end. In Part I of my little Hand-Book, the following numbers of each stamp were noted:

(a)—*Ordinary.*

$\frac{1}{2}$ anna	115,340
1 "	85,340
2 annas	66,540
3 "	65,360
4 "	55,020
6 "	70,780
8 "	52,260
1 rupee (gray)	1,560
1 " (current)	49,680

(b)—*Service.*

$\frac{1}{2}$ anna	79,100
1 "	66,100
2 annas	55,500
3 "	3,440
4 "	52,140
6 "	2,380
8 "	51,540
1 rupee (gray)	1,560
1 " (current)	1,320

Since then the following printings were made:

1. December 1898 or January 1899.

(a)—*Ordinary.*

$\frac{1}{2}$ anna	24,240
1 "	12,240

(b)—Service.

$\frac{1}{2}$ anna	12,240
I "	12,240
3 annas	2,640
I rupee (current)	720

2. September 1900.

(a)—Ordinary.

$\frac{1}{4}$ anna	12,240
$\frac{1}{2}$ " "	12,240
I "	5,040
2 annas	720
3 "	960
I 2 "	1,200

(b)—Service.

$\frac{1}{2}$ anna	6,240
I "	3,840

We thus arrive at the following figures for the entire issues of the State:

(a)—Ordinary.

$\frac{1}{4}$ anna	12,240
$\frac{1}{2}$ "	151,820
I "	102,620
2 annas	67,260
3 "	66,320
4 "	55,020
6 "	70,780
8 "	52,260
I 2 "	1,200
I rupee (gray)	1,560
I " (current)	49,680

(b)—Service.

$\frac{1}{2}$ anna	97,580
I "	82,180
2 annas	55,500
3 "	6,080
4 "	52,140
6 "	2,380
8 "	51,540
I rupee (gray)	1,560
I " (current)	2,040

It will be seen that, while the supplies of most values were considerable, the following were printed in very small quantities, viz:

I 2 annas ordinary	1,200
I rupee (gray) ordinary	1,560
I " " service	1,560
2 " (current)	2,040
6 annas service	2,380
3 " "	6,080
$\frac{1}{4}$ anna ordinary	12,240

Neapolitan Provinces.

THE HALF TORNESI AND TWO GRANA BLACK ERRORS.

By DR. EMILIO DIENA.

From "The Philatelic Record."

The errors of color in the set of stamps of 1861 for the Neapolitan Provinces, although known to some specialists in Italian States for the last few years, have not been the subject of any reference in the Philatelic press.

Having had the good fortune to examine what I presume to be almost all the few known copies of these varieties, and to find some mention of them in the correspondence between the General Italian Post Office, then in Turin, and the former Postal Administration of the Neapolitan Provinces, I am now pleased to publish the result of my researches.

The errors, known so far, are the following :—

$\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, black (instead of green).

2 grana, black (instead of blue).

Both these stamps were sold as 1 grano, to which value the black or greyish-black impression was appropriate, and it is important to add that they have been certainly used as 1 grano stamps.

The postage for letters not exceeding the weight of 10 grammes, circulating in the Neapolitan Provinces, was 2 grana (about 8 centesimi, Italian currency). It is, therefore, evident that the specimens reproduced in the accompanying illustrations, kindly lent me by leading collectors, were used as 1 grano stamps. The first letter is addressed from Roccagloriosa (a small town in the Province of Salerno) to Naples, and the other from Potenza to Salerno.

All the copies of these errors I examined, some of which are in poor condition, bearing respectively the above-mentioned postmarks, i.e., Roccagloriosa for the $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, and Potenza (this postmark was generally very fairly impressed in grayish ink) for the 2 grana. From this fact we infer that one or perhaps a few "Post Office sheets," were issued in the above-named towns, an important item for the unearthing of further copies.

I purposely say "Post Office sheets," because these stamps, although lithographed in sheets of 100, were delivered to the Controller of Stamps in groups of 50, without marginal borders, each group containing ten horizontal rows of five stamps.

The first mention of these errors in the official correspondence is found in the following letter* :

GENERAL DIRECTION OF POSTS, RAILWAYS AND TELEGRAPHS.

POST OFFICE BRANCH. (No. 1565.)

Enclosures : Six sheets of stamps.

NAPLES, February 28th, 1861.

Among the stamps received from you, 300 specimens were found in the color of those of 1 grano, but bearing the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese.

*The first consignment was sent from Turin on February 9th, 1861. It included 15,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese 10,000 1 grano, 60,000 2 grana 50,000 5 grana, and 10,000 20 grana stamps. The second consignment was sent on 23rd of the same month. It included 40,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, 30,000 1 grano, 55,000 2 grana, and 55,000 5 grana stamps.

In returning them, I beg you to have them duly exchanged with the same quantity of 1 grano labels, which please remit to this General Direction.

With kind regards,

The Director General,
(Signed) BELLELLI.

To the General Post Office, Turin.

By an oversight, the six sheets were not enclosed in the above letter, but they were sent to Turin on the following day.

On March 9th a further supply, consisting of 190,000 stamps, was sent from Turin, to which 300 1 grano stamps were added, "to substitute those of the $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese sent in a color not conform to that which has been determined."

In another supply sent to Naples on April 8th, 200 stamps were found "bearing the wrong inscription," as mentioned in the following letter:

DEPARTMENTAL POSTAL DIRECTION. (No. 5496.)

Enclosures : 200 stamps.

NAPLES, April 17th, 1861.

Per the s.s. which left Genoa on the evening of the 8th instant, and which reached here this morning, I received the parcel containing the postage stamps, notice of which you sent me in your letter of the — instant.

The regular receipt for the stamps found in the said parcel has been written, as usual, on the enclosed Form No. 46A, in which you will find, in the column reserved to special remarks, that, among the ordinary 1 grano stamps, we meet with two hundred specimens bearing a wrong inscription. They are returned to you herewith, in order to have them duly exchanged.

The Departmental Director,

(Signed) C. VACCHERI.

To the General Post Office, Turin.

In accordance with the preceding letter, 200 1 grano stamps were sent from Turin on April 16th, to replace those with a wrong inscription returned from Naples, but not even from this letter do we gather what the wrong inscription was. I am inclined to think that it was *due grana*. In fact the only specimen I have seen bearing a postmark the date of which could be determined was on the letter here reproduced, bearing on back the postmark of Salerno, July 17th, 1861, a date which will be found to be sufficiently near to the receipt of the irregular stamps at Naples, a portion of which would not have been detected either by the Controller of Stamps or the Post Office officials.

Again, in the supply sent to Naples on November 6th, 1861, a sheet of fifty $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese black stamps was discovered among those of 1 grano. It was returned to Turin on the 12th of the same month, and not before January 16th, 1862, was it exchanged for ordinary 1 grano stamps. As the used specimens of these errors bear the dates of January 19th and April 20th, 1862, we can infer that they were included in a supply sent from Turin during the last months of 1861.

No doubt it will seem strange that such an oversight occurred more than once, and that some specimens with wrong inscription duly paid postage. But we must consider the period in which these mistakes took place.

The little and homely *atelier* of Mr. Matraire, where the Sardinian stamps were printed, had at the time an ever-increasing work to do. It had to supply postage and, later on, revenue stamps and other Government securities not only to the former little Sardinian States, but also to almost all the Provinces of the then freshly-constituted Italian Kingdom.

We know that the premises (in the Palazzo dei Santi Martiri), contiguous to the Post Office in which the printing and lithographic work was done, were

very small, and that Mr. Matraire endeavored for a long time to obtain larger premises. To this we have to add that both the staff and the printing and lithographic machines were inadequate. Not taking into consideration the various errors, misprints, etc., known in an unused condition which were found among what we call "Matraire remainders," I have noted as a matter of fact that many of the specimens of the Sardinian stamps with inverted head were used on letters of 1861, or in the first month of 1862. Moreover, the 10 and 20 grana exist in an absolutely identical shade, while the 5 grana varies from vermillion-red to pale rose and light mauve, thus proving that the work was performed with a great amount of inconsistency. To 1861 also belongs the Sardinian one centesimo black stamp, bearing the embossed figure 2, an error well known in used condition and also on original.

On the other hand, the Postal Service, in so defective and backward a state in those Provinces under the Bourbon Government, was then moving in an entirely new direction under a radical reorganisation.

But to return to our subject, we may venture a supposition as to the existence of the $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese black stamps. As $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese is equivalent to about 1 centesimo, I presume that it had been contemplated at first to print that value in black, as adopted for the 1 centesimo journal stamp of Sardinia (and Italy), issued on January 1st of the same year (1861), a stamp having a "family likeness" to those under consideration. Thus, a limited printing of black $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese stamps must have been prepared, which afterwards got mixed with the 1 grano sheets.

The two varieties are certainly very interesting, and are entitled to the recognition that we accord to our old friends the $\frac{1}{2}$ neug, black on light blue, Saxony, of 1851; the 9kr., green, Baden, of 1851; the $\frac{1}{2}$ grano, blue, Sicily; the 2 pence, mauve, Western Australia, and other *rarae aves*.

Competitive Exhibition at the Collectors Club.

The Amusement Committee of the Collectors Club desire us to announce that a competitive exhibition of the stamps of Samoa will be held at the Club House, on the evening of June 13th next. The American Collectors Company offer a silver medal as a prize for the best exhibit of the stamps of that country. The award is to be made by a jury appointed by the Club. The competition is not restricted to members of the Collectors Club but is open to all philatelists, and any who are interested are invited to participate. Philatelists are also invited to attend and examine the various collections. If the occasion is as successful as is anticipated, it will probably be followed by similar displays during the next autumn and winter.



UNITED STATES.—We have found an unsevered pair of the \$3 dark brown revenue stamp of the 1898 issue, imperforate vertically.



UNITED STATES.—Mr. J. M. Bartels has shown us the following hitherto unchronicled varieties of United States envelopes. The numbers are those of the National Philatelic Society, as found in the catalogue of U. S. envelopes, etc., recently issued by our publishers :

2956a, without the word "Specimen"	"	"	"	"
2957a	"	"	"	"
957a	"	"	"	"
1008a, manila, knife 50, size 5				
1008b	"	knife 56,	size 9	
1011c, amber manila, knife 50, size 5				
1011b, without the word "Specimen"				



BELGIUM.—*Le Collectionneur de Timbres Poste* copies the following from the *Vingtième Siècle* of Brussels :

We shall, before long, have a new postage stamp with a new portrait of the King. The design is in the hands of the Minister and will be submitted to the King as soon as he returns from his voyage. The new stamp is very attractive. The design is made by the Brussels painter, Omer Dierickx, who also is the designer of the thousand franc note.

The proposed stamp does not resemble the old ones in any particular. It is rather simple in design, while, up to the present, it seems to have been the policy to multiply details, thus depriving the central design of its prominence. The new stamp is drawn on very simple lines, and the portrait of our sovereign is a striking likeness. For the manufacture of the die, a new process has been used. It cannot, as yet, be stated when the new type will be placed on sale.



BOLIVIA.—*Le Collectionneur de Timbres Poste* furnishes details in regard to the values, colors and types of the new issue, which is now being prepared. They are as follows :

1 centavo green ;	Camacho
5 centavos red ;	Campero
10 " blue ;	Ballivian
20 " violet ;	Santa Cruz
2 bolivianos brown ;	Arms of the Republic

BOLIVIA.—*The Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung* has seen an imperforate pair of the 20 centavos stamps of the 1897 issue.



CHINA.—Stanley Gibbons, Limited, have found a pair of the ½c on 3c imperforate vertically (our No. 18b), in which one of the stamps shows the error "CEN" for "CENT".



COREA.—*L'Echo de la Timbrologie* states that the 2 sen (cheun?) stamp has been issued in a new type, the color remaining the same as before, namely blue.



CRETE.—We are informed, by one of the postmasters of Crete, that the one drachma unpaid letter stamp of the red series will be surcharged, in order to distinguish it from the one lepton.

The same authority informs us that the stamps in the type of the postage stamps, printed in olive yellow, are issued for revenue purposes, whereas we had until now supposed that they were a provisional set of unpaid letter stamps. We have written for further particulars and expect later on to furnish our readers with definite information on this subject.



FINLAND.—We learn from the *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung* that a correspondent is in possession of an imperforate pair of the 20p orange of 1889.



GIBRALTAR—MOROCCO AGENCIES.—The *Monthly Journal* has found a variety in the series surcharged in London. The letter "M" in one stamp in each sheet is slightly shorter than the others, and has an unduly long serif projecting to the left at top.



GREECE.—The *Monthly Journal* publishes a lengthy list of errors among the recent surcharges, which we copy herewith:

Type 1, no figures on back.

With "AEIITA" for "AEITA."

30l on 40l, purple on cream; imperf.

30l on 40l, " " " perf. 11½

40l on 2l, stone " " imperf.

Type 2. Athens print.

Surcharge inverted.

20l on 25l, deep blue; imperf.

20l on 25l, dull blue "

20l on 25l, pale blue "

20l on 25l, dull blue; perf. 11½

20l on 25l, pale blue " "

With double surcharge.

20l on 25l, dull blue; imperf.

20l on 25l, pale blue "

20l on 25l, deep blue ; perf. 11½
20l on 25l, pale blue " "

With "20" at top and "AEIITA" at foot.

20l on 25l, dull blue ; imperf.

20l on 25l, " " perf. 11½

With "A M", etc. double.

5l on 1dr, blue ; Olympic issue



ALWUR.—The *Monthly Journal* has found the new $\frac{1}{4}$ anna in horizontal pairs, imperforate between.



DHAR.—The *Monthly Journal* is informed by Whitfield King & Co. that a recent consignment of the $\frac{1}{2}$ pice stamps shows the word "Half" in five characters, instead of four. Our contemporary does not know which is the correct spelling, as both styles are employed in other states.



FARIDKOT.—We learn from the *Philatelic Journal of India* that the State Post Office at Faridkot put up its shutters on March 31st. This is the first of the States using surcharged stamps to give up its own postal service. Our contemporary states that the State will retain the stock on hand, and a statement of the amount of remainders may be published later on.



KISHENGARH.—The *Monthly Journal* has received 2 and 5 rupees stamps, issued by this state in a somewhat larger size than the lower values, and with value not expressed in English. The *M. J.* suggests that these labels be treated as fiscals, as no such values are required for postage.



JAPAN.—We have been informed that the inscription on the present 5 rin stamp is to be changed to "½ sen."



LIBERIA.—The publishers of the *Monthly Journal* have found the 4c and \$5 values of 1892 with centre inverted.



NEW CALEDONIA.—The *Australian Philatelist* states that on a sheet of the recent provisional issue, 15c on 75c, a few stamps escaped the surcharge, so that pairs may be found, *se tenant*, with and without surcharge.



NICARAGUA.—The following decree was issued on March 9th by the Secretary of the Treasury:

"I desire to communicate to you the following:

"The President of the Republic taking note of the fact that the supply of postage and telegraph stamps is too small, and that while a new issue is soon to appear, it will be necessary to alter some of the values in order to supply the current demands,

Decrees:

That the following postage stamps, unpaid letter stamps, postal cards and telegraph stamps be re-stamped, or surcharged:

Postage Stamps.

7,000	5 pesos	to be altered to 10 centavos
4,000	2 "	" " 20 "
20,000	1 peso	" " 2 "

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

To be surcharged for regular postal use,

5,000	1 centavo
5,000	2 centavos
8,700	5 "
5,000	10 "
5,000	20 "
7,620	30 "
7,700	50 "

Postal Cards.

11,000 of the local cards shall be divided and used as single cards of 2 centavos each. Those of 6 and 12 centavos, for foreign postage, shall be surcharged respectively with the values of 5 and 10 centavos.

Telegraph Stamps.

Those of 50 centavos shall be surcharged 10 centavos and those of \$1, 20 centavos.

The Treasurer General shall carry out this decree.

Dated, Managua, March 5th, 1901.

The Secretary Treasurer, Zelaya, R.

Zelaya."



PARAGUAY.—*L'Echo de la Timbrologie* states that the stock of the 1c official stamp of the current series is exhausted.



PERSIA.—Various European contemporaries chronicle the set of 1898, surcharged "P. P." in fancy capitals, but some authorities have expressed doubts as to the actual use of this surcharged lot. About two years ago we were informed by correspondents in Persia that the P.P. surcharge was to have been applied, but later on our informants stated that the stamps in question would not be placed in use. We shall therefore withhold our chronicle of these newcomers until it has been shown that they were really issued.



PERU.—In our March number we chronicled a 1 sol stamp in a new type, but we are now informed by our agents in that country that no new 1 sol

stamp has been issued. Until further advices, it will therefore be necessary to cancel our previous chronicle.



PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* calls our attention to the fact that the 1c envelope, which we recently chronicled, is not a novelty, having been mentioned by our contemporary considerably over a year ago.

With apologies to *W. S. N.*, we regret having entered the field at so late a date.



ORANGE RIVER COLONY.—Mr. J. W. Jones has shown the *Philatelic Record* a complete sheet of the 6d blue, from which it is determined that the variety without surcharged value is the fifth stamp in the seventh row on the two left hand panes. The error does not occur on the right hand panes.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The *Australian Philatelist* states that the current 3 pence stamp has appeared in a much darker shade, namely, olive green,



TONGA.—The existence of our No. 37 ($\frac{1}{2}$ p on 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p on 2p light blue) has frequently been doubted, and we had almost determined to omit the stamp in our next edition. However, the *Monthly Journal* is now informed by Mr. Phillips that he has an undoubtedly genuine used pair, so that our original acceptance of the variety is now justified.



TONGA.—Mr. Meissner has called our attention to a variety in the issue of 1892, surcharged with star, which appears, up to the present, to have escaped the attention of all cataloguers. All the stamps perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ are surcharged with a star-shaped floreate ornament, all the lines of which are clear and distinct, whereas the stamps perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ are surcharged with a star only the points of which are clear and distinct.



ZANZIBAR.—The *Stamp Collectors Fortnightly* has seen a strip of three of the 1 rupee India, surcharged "Zanzibar", in which the middle stamp is without surcharge; also a 2 annas blue with double surcharge "Zanzibar" and a 5 rupees with double surcharge, one inverted. Our contemporary does not state whether the 1 rupee referred to is in gray or in green and carmine.



UNITED STATES.—We have been shown a new local stamp used in Pittsburg in 1851, the specimen shown to us being on a letter addressed to New York and bearing a 3c stamp in addition to the local.

Local stamp.

Zieber's One Cent Dispatch.
1c black on gray blue



Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

5s carmine

15s yellow green

Provisional issue.

5s on 3s bistre brown, black surcharge

ANGOLA.—In our last number we stated that the sets of Portuguese Colonial stamps were to be enriched by the addition of 500 and 700 reis stamps. We have now received specimens of these values for eight colonies, namely, Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea, Lourenzo Marques, Mozambique, Portuguese Congo, St. Thomas and Prince and Zambesi.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

500r black on blue, numerals in carmine

700r purple on yellowish, numerals in black

CAPE VERDE.—

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

500r black on blue, numerals in carmine

700r purple on yellowish, numerals in black

CYYLON.—*Le Timbrophile Belge* states that the new 1 rupee 50c is to be surcharged for official use.

Official stamp.

Surcharged "On Service."
Watermarked Crown and C.C.

Perf. 14.

1r 50c carmine

BULGARIA.—Two new stamps were issued on May 1st, in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the first revolution for the independence of Bulgaria. The illustration which accompanies this chronicle will render other description unnecessary.

In addition to the 10 on 50s provisional which we chronicled last month, we have now received the 3s bistre brown surcharged "5".

CHILE.—We learn from *Le Timbrophile Belge* that by a decree, dated October 25th, 1900, the use of revenue stamps of the values 10, 15, 20 and 25 centavos was permitted for postal purposes.

Revenue stamps used for postage.

10c yellow
15c gray green
20c gray
25c light brown

ECUADOR—*L'Echo de la Timbrologie* is informed than the higher values of the current series have also changed their colors.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.
20c gray and black
50c light blue and black
1s dark bistre and black

GERMAN CHINA.—It appears that there was, in certain towns, an interregnum between the disappearance of the old set and the receipt of the new type bearing the proper surcharge. In order to tide over the difficulty, a local surcharge was applied in Tien-Tsin to various values of the current set, in the Germania type.

Adhesive stamps.

Black surcharge.
Perforated
30p bistre brown
50p green
10p carmine
20p ultramarine
30p orange and black on salmon
50p blue and black on salmon
80p lake and black on rose

Postal card.

Black surcharge.
10p carmine

GREAT BRITAIN.—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* has received the ½d envelope printed in green.

Envelope.

Size (?)
½p green on white

GUINEA.—

Adhesive stamps.
Perforated.
50c black on blue, numerals in carmine

70c or purple on yellowish, numerals in black

Travancore.—A correspondent of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* sends a new and rather odd value, namely a ¾ chuckram. This was issued on February 12th last, its issue being necessary as the postage on letters was reduced from 1 chuckram to ¾ chuckram per ½ tola weight. Our contemporary describes the stamps as follows :

"The general features of the design are similar to those of the other values, yet the details are nearly all different. The shell in the centre is quite a different shape ; in the inner frame surrounding the shell is inscribed "Travancore Anchel" above and "Stamp" below ; in the outer circle the native inscriptions give place to the value "Three-quarter chuckram" in words ; and, finally, the spandrels are different."

Adhesive stamp.

Perf. 12.
¾ch black

LOURENZO MARQUES.—

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.
50c black on blue, numerals in carmine
70c or purple on yellowish, numerals in black

MAURITIUS.—We have received the 4c stamp of the current type in new colors.

Adhesive stamp.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.
Perf. 14.
4c dull lilac and carmine on yellow

MEXICO.—The *Philatelic Record* is informed by Mr. J. W. Jones that the 50c of the current issue exists with official surcharge.

Official stamp.

Perforated.

50c black and violet, black surcharge

MONACO.—*Der Philatelist* has now seen the 15 and 25c in new colors.*Adhesive stamps.*

Perforated.

15c gray

25c blue

MOZAMBIQUE.—*Adhesive stamps.*

Perforated.

500r black on blue, numerals in carmine

700r purple on yellowish, numerals in black

NICARAGUA.—The present contractor seems to be somewhat belated in his efforts to supply the government of Nicaragua, as a variety of surcharges have been made in order to supply the deficiency in postage stamps of certain values. We have thus far received the following:*Adhesive stamps.*

Provisional issue.

1901

Surcharged

2 Cent.

on postage stamps.

2c on 1 peso yellow, black surcharge

Correos

Surcharged

1901

on unpaid letter stamps.

1c red violet, black surcharge

10c purple, gold surcharge

PARAGUAY.—We have received

the 5c stamp in the 1900 type, printed in a new color.

Adhesive stamp.

Perforated.

5c brown

PORtUGUESE CONGO.—*Adhesive stamps.*

Perforated.

500r black on blue, numerals in carmine

700r purple on yellowish, numerals in black

ST. THOMAS AND PRINCE ISLANDS.—*Adhesive stamps.*

Perforated.

500r black on blue, numerals in carmine

700r purple on yellowish, numerals in black

SALVADOR.—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* adds some additional varieties to the extensive list of surcharges which we have given in the past few months.

Mr. Witt has shown us a 1c green, in the type of 1899, with the date altered to 1900. From the appearance of the specimen, we should judge that it is a local production made by lithography, in imitation of the steel engraved 1899 issue. The work is certainly bad enough to warrant the belief that it is of Central American and not of New York manufacture. The stamp is surcharged with the Arms and Sunburst and inscribed "D. C. C." diagonally across the Arms.

We copy the following from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*:

"Mr. Hermann Focke sends us a hitherto unchronicled denomination of the 1900 series. The color is ochre and the surcharge is the small violet variety. Also the 5c denomination with the black surcharge more recently

introduced. He also explodes our theory of separate printings for the large and small violet surcharges (based on the shades seen by us and reported in other papers), by sending us a strip of three 13c, two with the small violet and one with the large violet surcharge. The shade is dull orange."

Adhesive stamps.

Surcharged large Sunburst in violet.

Issue of 1900.

10c dull blue

Surcharged small Sunburst in violet.

Issue of 1899.

12c green

Issue of 1900.

26c ochre

Surcharged small Sunburst in black.

Issue of 1900.

1c yellow green

5c deep blue

13c orange

Provisional official stamps.

Official stamps of 1899, surcharged with twelve small holes.

1c bistre brown

2c gray green

5c brown orange

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.—*Der Philatelist* has been shown two entires issued for this colony.

Envelope.

1p rose on white laid, size 140x79 mm.

Registration envelope.

2p blue on linen, size 152x96mm.

TRANSVAAL (Vaal River Colony).—We have received the 1 penny of the South African Republic surcharged "E. R. I.", this being the first stamp issued recognizing the accession of King Edward VII. to the throne of Great Britain. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* states that this surcharge was first issued at Johannesburg.

Adhesive stamp.

Surcharged "E. R. I."

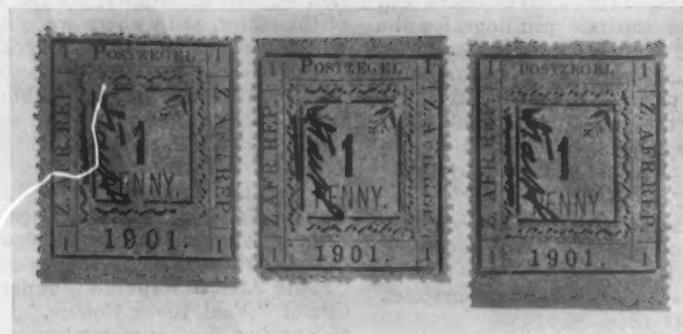
1p carmine and green, black surcharge

In the Notes of the *Philatelic Re-*

cord we find an inquiry, on the part of the editor, as to where we obtained our authority for the designation "Vaal River Colony", which is found in our catalogue which was published in December of last year. We would reply to our contemporary, that the designation given by us is based upon the proclamation issued by Lord Roberts after the occupation of Pretoria, announcing the annexation of the territory formerly known as the "South African Republic" under the title of "Vaal River Colony." The manuscript for our catalogue was prepared shortly after the issuing of this proclamation and hence the error into which we appear to have fallen, as the authorities in England have never adopted the designation intended by Lord Roberts.

Mr. E. Tamsen has just sent us some interesting provisionals made by the Boer government, which in our opinion are worthy of recognition. We are of course convinced that the arms of Great Britain will be victorious in the present struggle, and it is our earnest and sincere wish that British supremacy may soon be established in South Africa. Nevertheless, we must recognize that the Boers have not yielded their independence, and that any stamps issued under official Boer authority are worthy of recognition. Mr. Tamsen writes as follows in regard to the stamps referred to :

"The Boer government issued only one set of stamps throughout the whole war, and now, the English troops having cleared them out of their last towns, they have no longer any printing materials or paper. The comptroller of the State Printing Office at Pietersburg, who watched the printing of the government paper currency, had also to superintend the printing of stamps and then to initial every one of them. He received no salary and, in fact, had received none for nine months, and so you can fancy he blessed the stamp business. It is



his fault that these stamps did not appear in February 1901, as was ordered. The 1p came out first in March and the others in the first days of April, the total issue being valued at about £500, less about one-third destroyed. Before the arrival of troops the blocks were broken up, and since then the printing office has been burnt, with the type and all other paraphernalia, so that no reprints can be made. I am collecting official notices and am interviewing officials and the public of Pietersburg, who are all here now, and I expect to be able to publish an interesting article on the last stamps issued by the Boers.

"The stamps were printed in four rows of six stamps each, then cut in half and issued in sheets of twelve. The first two rows (twelve stamps) have "POSTZEGEL" and "1901", both in large type; the third row has "POSTZEGEL" large and "1901" small, and the fourth and last row has "POSTZEGEL" and "1901" both in small type. We thus have three types and I have sent you the correct proportions. Types 2 and 3 are fifty per cent. scarcer than Type 1. There is a special sale here of Type 2,—why, I fail to see. I prefer Type 3, as being a much more distinct variety from Type 1. The officers are buying largely and everybody seems to be a

collector. The idea was to perforate all, but the printer never got so far, having to wait too long for the Comptroller; thus all values exist imperforate and perforated on three sides. Any stamp not initialed is a proof and of no postal value, except three sheets of ½d green, which stuck to initialed sheets and were issued by mistake.

"The issue consists approximately of the following quantities :

½p	4,000
1p	15,000
2p	4,000
4p	1,000
6p	1,000
1sh	1,000

but not all were issued, a part having been burnt.

"There are a number of errors, such as letter 'B' for 'R', 'J' for 'L', no stop between 'AFR.' and 'REP.'"

Adhesive stamps.

Imperforate.

½p green
1p rose
2p orange
4p dull blue
6p green
1sh yellow

Perforated.

½p green
1p rose
2p orange

4p dull blue
6p green
1sh yellow

TUNIS.—Mr. Witt has shown us a series of unpaid letter stamps in a type resembling that employed for the unpaid letter stamps of France.

Unpaid letter stamps.

Perforated.
1c black
2c orange
5c blue
10c brown
20c blue green
30c carmine
50c red brown

URUGUAY.—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* has received all the values of the new series, except the 50c, surcharged for official use.

Official stamps.

Black surcharge.
1c green
2c vermilion

5c blue
7c bistre
10c gray lilac
20c blue
25c brown
1p dark green

VIRGIN ISLANDS.—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* is informed that there was an output of stationery in the early part of April, the type of stamp employed being that of the current adhesives.

Envelopes.

1p red on white, various sizes
2½p blue on white " "

Postal cards.

½p green, small size
1p red, large size

ZAMBESI.—

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

500r black on blue, numerals in carmine
700r purple on yellowish, numerals in black

The Collectors Club.

351 Fourth Avenue, New York.

The sixty-sixth meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Club House on Monday evening, May 13, 1901.

Present: Messrs. Bruner, Calman, Luff, Scott and Perrin. Meeting called to order at 8.30 p. m.

Minutes of the previous meeting read and approved.

The Secretary read a number of communications.

The Treasurer's report showing a cash balance in hand of \$317.24 exclusive of \$1000 bond was read and accepted. It was ordered that a duplicate share of stock be issued to Mr. Serfling to replace a lost one.

A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. J. W. Scott for a bound copy of Vols XIII and XIV of the *Metropolitan Philatelist*.

Report of House Committee was received.

The Committee on New Club House reported favorable progress.

A communication was received from the American Collectors Co. offering a silver medal for an exhibition of the stamps of Samoa to be held under the auspices of the club. The matter was referred to the Committee on Amusements with power to act.

The application of Mr. J. M. Fiske having been posted the required

length of time, his name was balloted for and he was declared unanimously elected a subscribing member of the Club.

Adjourned 9.40.

ALBERT PERRIN, *Secretary.*

The Birmingham Philatelic Society.

May 2d. Paper, New Zealand, type I., Mr. T. W. Peck.

The following were unanimously elected members: Messrs. J. C. North and H. Heller.

It was decided to still further add to the privileges of membership by allowing all members to send private lots to the Hon. Sec. for "private offers," which may be made by members or any one else, particulars to be published each month in the Official Journal.

It was reported that the collection of Auction catalogues which we started about seven months ago had already reached to over 800, of which about 600 were priced.

Mr. T. W. Peck then gave a very interesting and instructive paper on early issues of New Zealand, illustrated by his collection of wonderfully fine copies.

Staten Island Philatelic Society.

The 209th meeting of the Staten Island Philatelic Society was held at Ohliger's Hotel, Stapleton, S. I., N. Y., on March 19th, 1901.

The meeting was called to order at 8.30 p. m., with President J. W. Sittig in the chair; other members present were, Messrs. Henry Clotz, Adolph Lienhardt, Oscar Dejonge, Eugene Angell and Hugo Kessler.

Owing to the absence of the Secretary, Mr. Angell was appointed to act as such pro tem.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

Mr. Angell proposed for corresponding membership Mr. A. Gelli of the firm of Gelli & Tani, Brussels, Belgium; referred to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Vahan M. Essayan, proposed by Mr. Lehman was unanimously elected a corresponding member.

Mr. O. Dejonge presented the Society with some fine U. S. and Haiti stamps, which were accepted with thanks to the kind donor.

Adjournment followed at 9.45 p. m., after which some very choice stamps were exhibited by the Exchange Manager.

EUGENE ANGELL, *Secretary pro tem.*

The 210th meeting of the Staten Island Philatelic Society was held at Ohliger's Hotel, Stapleton, Richmond, N. Y., on April 16th, 1901, and called to order at 8.20 p. m.

Members present at roll call were President J. W. Sittig, in the chair; Messrs. Oscar DeJonge, J. L. Browne, A. R. Richter, Eugene Angell, Hugo Kessler and R. S. Lehman.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and duly accepted.

The Executive Committee having reported favorably on the nomination of Mr. A. Gelli, the said gentleman was unanimously elected a corresponding member.

It was learned with great sorrow that our honorary member, the well known philatelist Joseph Rechert, of Hoboken, N. J., had departed this earthly life on April 11th, and upon motion of Mr. DeJonge, the Secretary was instructed to convey the condolence of the Society to the family of the deceased.

The resignation of Dr. James M. Craighill of Baltimore, Md., as a corresponding member was accepted with regret.

The President appointed Messrs. DeJonge, Richter and Lehman to act as committee of Nominaton of Officers for the year 1901-2.

The above committee nominated the following ticket:

For President, J. W. Sittig; Vice-President, Oscar DeJonge; Treasurer, Henry Clotz; Secretary, Robert S. Lehman; Exchange Manager, Eugene Angell; Librarian, Adolph Linhardt; Executive Committee, C. Witt, A. R. Richter and O. DeJonge; Counterfeit Detectors, J. W. Scott, Henry Clotz and R. S. Lehman; Steward, Fred. Ohliger.

The meeting adjourned at 9.50 p. m., after which the Exchange Manager exhibited some very rare stamps at low prices many of which found ready sale.

Later the members sat down to a generous lunch provided by the host, Mr. Ohliger.

Next meeting will take place on May 21st, 1901, when the election of officers for the ensuing year will be held.

ROBERT S. LEHMAN, *Secretary.*

The 21st meeting of the Staten Island Philatelic Society was held at Ohliger's Hotel, Stapleton, Richmond, N. Y. City, on May 21st, 1901.

The meeting was called to order at 8.30 p.m.

Members present: President, J. W. Sittig in the chair; Messrs. Oscar DeJonge, A. R. Richter, A. Lienhardt and E. R. Carter. In the absence of the Secretary, Mr. Carter was appointed to act in his stead.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

The annual report of the Treasurer showing a substantial cash balance was read and accepted with pleasure.

The Secretary reported for the past year:

Number of members on May 15, 1900	59
" " " " 21, 1901	60
" Active members	20
" Corresponding members	36
" Honorary members	4
" deceased during the year	1
" resigned	3

Number dropped for non-payment of dues	1
" new members	6
" regular meetings during the year	8

The report was accepted with thanks.

The Exchange Manager's report for the year 1900-1: Number of books circulated among the members, 142; valued at \$3,910.58. Total sales from these books were \$684.00. This report was accepted with thanks for the fine showing made. The Librarian reported the year ending May, 1901, that the Library contains 272 bound volumes, and that the stamp collections have been increased; also that there are still some *vacant* spaces in the photograph album. Members are requested to contribute liberally to the library and stamp and counterfeit collections, so as to make a better showing at the end of the coming year. This report was accepted with thanks.

The Executive Committee having reported favorably upon the nomination of Mr. John B. Kleemann, the gentleman was unanimously elected an active member.

Mr. P. G. Tessier presented the Society's album with some fine Newfoundland Revenues, which were accepted with thanks.

Election of officers took place, the ticket nominated last meeting being unanimously elected:

President, J. W. Sittig; Vice-President, Oscar Dejonge; Treasurer, Henry Clotz; Secretary, Robt. S. Lehman; Librarian, Adolph Linhardt; Exchange Manager, Eugene Angell; Executive Committee, C. Witt, Oscar Dejonge and A. R. Richter; Counterfeit Detectives, J. W. Scott, Henry Clotz and Robt. S. Lehman; Steward, Mr. Ohliger.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p. m.

Next meeting takes place on June 18th, 1901.

EDGAR R. CARTER, *Secretary pro tem*



